



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 7, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

RECYCLING/PLASTIC BAG AND POLYSTYRENE FOOD PACKAGING CONTAINERS BOARD ORDERS

Plastic Bags

On April 10, 2007, your Board instructed this Office to work with the Director of Internal Services and the Director of Public Works to solicit input from outside environmental protection and grocer organizations to: 1) investigate polyethylene plastic and paper sack consumption in the County and possible adoption of a policy similar to that of San Francisco, including unintended consequences of the ordinance; 2) inventory and assess the impact of current recycling campaigns; and 3) report to your Board within 90 days on findings and recommendations to reduce grocery and retail sack waste.

On July 12, 2007, our Office provided your Board with a status memorandum advising that the internal workgroup (consisting of Public Works, Internal Services, Public Health, County Counsel, the Sanitation Districts, representatives from each your offices, and our Office) was reviewing a number of issues and options. At that time, we noted that the responses and input from the various stakeholder groups, as well as material gathered through research, required additional time for the workgroup to synthesize, and we targeted August 21, 2007 to return to your Board with our findings and recommendations.

Polystyrene

On May 22, 2007, your Board instructed the Director of Public Works, in consultation with the Director of Internal Services and County Counsel, to investigate the impact of prohibiting the purchase and use of expanded polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam™) food packaging containers at all County facilities, County offices, County-managed concessions,

County-permitted events, and County-sponsored events, and report back by August 21, 2007. Your Board requested that the report include a recommendation of the earliest practical date of such a prohibition.

Due to the similarity of the public policy issues, the workgroup investigating plastic and paper sack consumption in the County also assumed the responsibility of investigating the prohibition of expanded polystyrene food packaging containers. The workgroup has contacted a number of jurisdictions that banned expanded polystyrene food packaging containers in order to gather information on their ban, including procurement issues and legal restrictions. In addition, we are currently developing a database of vendors capable of providing alternative products for procurement officials to utilize. We will be meeting with departmental representatives in August to discuss our initial findings and request their assistance in expediting the gathering and submission of each department's consumption figures and specifications for their food packaging needs. Concurrently, a number of meetings with vendors, businesses, environmental organizations, and recycling facility operators are underway.

Time Extensions

With regard to investigating polyethylene plastic and paper sack consumption in the County, the workgroup will need more time than previously requested in our status memorandum to finalize our findings and recommendations. Specifically, we require additional time to provide for adequate review and comment of our draft letter to your Board by the workgroup. For this reason, we are now targeting September 4, 2007 to return to your Board.

With regard to investigating the impact of prohibiting the purchase and use of expanded polystyrene, the workgroup will also need additional time to complete its efforts. A 60-day extension is necessary to complete the investigation; therefore, we are targeting October 30, 2007 to return to your Board with our findings and recommendations on this topic.

Should you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact me, or your staff may contact Vincent Amerson of this Office at (213) 974-1168 or vamerson@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:LN:MKZ:
MLM:VLA:pg

c: County Counsel
Director of Internal Services
Director of Public Health
Director of Public Works
Chief Engineer & General Manager, County Sanitation Districts